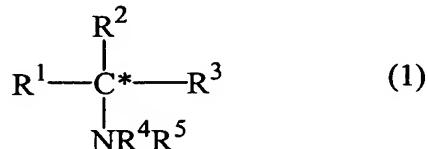


CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended): Process A process for the preparation of an enantiomerically enriched compound of formula 1



or a salt thereof, wherein:

C^* represents an asymmetric carbon atom;

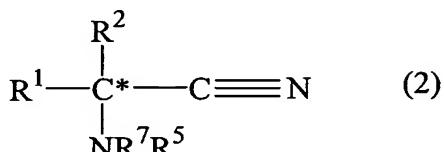
R^1 and R^2 are different from each other, and, each independently, ~~represent~~ represents H, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl group;

R^3 represents CH_2OH or an optionally protected CHO group;

R^5 represents H, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl group; and

R^4 represents H or $\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{R}^6$ wherein R^6 represents H, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, aryl or alkoxy group or R^4 represents or an amine protecting group, or R^4 and R^5 form together with the N to which they are attached a cyclic imide group, wherein

which process comprises hydrogenating an enantiomerically enriched compound with formula 2



or a salt thereof, wherein C^* , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^5 are as defined above; and

R^7 represents H or $\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{R}^6$ wherein R^6 is as defined above, or R^7 represents an amine protecting group, or R^5 and R^7 form together with the N to which they are attached a cyclic [imine] imide group, is subjected to hydrogenation

in the presence of hydrogen, a hydrogenation catalyst and a mineral acid.

2. (currently amended): Process according to The process of claim 1, wherein R^3 is an optionally protected CHO group and wherein hydrogen is present at a hydrogen-pressure between 0.1 and 2 MPa.

3. (currently amended): Process according to The process of claim 2, wherein the hydrogen-pressure is between 0.5 and 1 MPa.

4. (currently amended): ~~Process according to anyone of claims 1-3~~ The process of claim 1 wherein R³ is an optionally protected aldehyde and the amino-aldehyde compound of formula 2 is isolated in the form of a chemically and configurationally stable derivative.

5. (currently amended): ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 1, wherein R³ is a CH₂OH group and wherein at least during part of the hydrogenation hydrogen is present at a hydrogen-pressure between 2 and 10 MPa.

6. (currently amended): ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 5, wherein at least during part of the hydrogenation the hydrogen-pressure is between 4 and 6 MPa.

7. (currently amended): ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 5 [[or 6]], wherein the hydrogen-pressure initially is between [[0,5]] 0.5 and 2 MPa and subsequently, after most of the ~~nitrile starting material~~ compound of formula 2 is converted to the compound of formula 1, the hydrogen pressure is increased to a value between 2 and 10 MPa.

8. (currently amended): ~~Process according to anyone of claims 1-7~~ The process of claim 1 wherein a Pd catalyst is used as the hydrogenation catalyst is a Pd catalyst.

9. (currently amended): ~~Process according to anyone of claims 1-8~~ The process of claim 1, wherein as starting material, an enantiomerically enriched nitrile according to the compound of formula 2 is used that is prepared by

(precursor) fermentation, enzymatic resolution, crystallization induced asymmetric transformation, classical resolution, resolution via preferential crystallization, diastereomeric synthesis, catalytic asymmetric synthesis or ~~dehydration~~ dehydration of at least one amino acid [[amides]] amide.